

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-17, 19-23, and 25-34 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19, 23, 25, 27, are 31 amended; Claims 3, 9, 18, and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 33 and 34 are newly submitted. No new matter is introduced.¹

In the Office Action, Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. In addition, Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Gonyea (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032109) in view of Deguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,666), Bazarnik (U.S. Patent No. 4,404,641), Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,692), and Suyehira (U.S. Patent No. 6,947,161).

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-32 as indefinite, amended Claim 1 recites ID (identification), and amended Claim 12 recites IC (integrated circuit). Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the claims are definite and clear, and it is respectfully requested the rejection of Claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a parts management system, Independent Claim 16 relates to a parts management method, and independent Claim 31 relates to a parts management program. Amended independent Claim 1 incorporates the subject matter previously recited in Claim 3 and 9 and thus recites, *inter alia*:

first determination means for determining whether or not an ID number of a part acquired from the second database exists in the database,

¹ Support for the amended claims can be found at least in the claims as originally filed and the specification as originally filed. For example, support for amended Claims 12 and 27 and new Claim 33 can be found at least at page 26, line 11 to page 27, line 4, for example.

second determination means for determining whether or not the ID number of the part acquired from the second database is identical to an ID number that has been inputted to the second database, and

third determination means for determining whether or not the ID number of the part acquired from the second database is identical to an ID number already discarded in the database.

wherein when the ID number of the part acquired from the second database exists in the database, the ID number is identical to an ID number that has been inputted to the second database, and the ID number is identical to an ID number already discarded in the database, the part is determined to be a non-conforming part. (Emphasis added).

Likewise, amended independent Claim 16 incorporates the subject matter previously recited in Claim 18 and 24 and thus recites, *inter alia*:

wherein the parts management method further comprises a determination step of determining that the part is determined to be a non-conforming part, when it is determined in said first determination step that the ID number of the part acquired from the second database exists in the database, in said second determination step that the ID number is identical to an ID number that has been inputted to the second database, and in said third determination step that the ID number is identical to an ID number already discarded in the database. (Emphasis added).

Amended independent Claim 31 recites, *inter alia*:

wherein the parts management program further comprises a determination module for determining that the part is determined to be a non-conforming part, when it is determined by said first determination module that the ID number of the part acquired from the second database exists in the database, by said second determination module that the ID number is identical to an ID number that has been inputted to the second database, and by said third determination module that the ID number is identical to an ID number already discarded in the database.
(Emphasis added).

None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed feature of determining a part is a non-conforming part when it is determined (1) an

ID number of the part acquired from a second database exists in a database, (2) the ID number is identical to an ID number that has been inputted to the second database, and (3) the ID number is identical to an ID number *already discarded* in the database. As discussed in the specification as originally filed at, for example, page 5, line 30 to page 6, line 3, with this arrangement, the manufacturer can positively notice use of a nonconforming part by the user. Such a configuration makes it possible to prevent a “copycat” or refurbished product from being used. As further explained at page 13, line 35 to page 14, line 2, such a non-conforming parts relates to “discarded” parts – a part that has been previously entered and is out of use and discarded.

Turning to the applied references, Figure 1 of Gonyea illustrates a local computer 10 that runs a local prediction application 11, and this is in communication through a network 13 with a server computer 15 that runs a server prediction application 17.² Gonyea describes determining an operating time using design constraint data for each part of a product for a predetermined time period under the given operating conditions.³ A cumulative operating time is compared to a predetermined design limit for each part.⁴ Gonyea further describes adding an event to a maintenance once a schedule design limit has been reached, and querying whether the part is available within a designated inventory pool.⁵ However, Gonyea fails to disclose or suggest determining whether an ID number of a part is identical to an ID number that has been inputted to a second database, or determining that a part is a non-conforming part when it is determined the ID number is identical to an ID number *already discarded* in the database.

² See Gonyea, at paragraph [0013].

³ See Gonyea, at paragraph [0027].

⁴ See Gonyea, at paragraph [0027].

⁵ See Gonyea, at paragraphs [0050]-[0055].

Deguchi fails to cure the deficiencies in Gonyea. Figure 5 of Deguchi illustrates a business office 101 that includes a host management system 108 for providing a maintenance database for a manufacturing apparatus, a plurality of operation terminal computers 110, and a LAN (Local Area Network) 109, which connects the host management system 108 and computers 110 to build an intranet.⁶ Manufacturing factories of a semiconductor 102 to 104 are equipped with a plurality of manufacturing apparatuses 106, a LAN (Local Area Network) 111, which connects these apparatuses 106 to construct an intranet, and a host management system 107 serving as a monitoring apparatus for monitoring the operation status of each manufacturing apparatus 106.⁷ Deguchi describes the factory notifies the vendor via the Internet 105 of status information (e.g., the symptom of a manufacturing apparatus in trouble) representing the operation status of each manufacturing apparatus 106, and receives response information (e.g., information designating a remedy against the trouble, or remedy software or data) corresponding to the notification or maintenance information such as the latest software or help information.⁸ However, Deguchi fails to disclose or suggest determining that a part is a non-conforming part when it is determined the ID number is identical to an ID number *already discarded* in a database.

Bazarnik describes a maintenance monitor that includes a programmable module counter, Takahashi relates to security features of a remote diagnostic system and a remote diagnostic method, and Suyehira describes a system that automatically receives tracking information about a replacement component that was automatically ordered by a printing device or related system to replace a replaceable component in the printing device. However,

⁶ See Deguchi, at col. 6, lines 18-39.

⁷ See Deguchi, at col. 6, lines 40-51.

⁸ See Deguchi, at col. 6, lines 58-65.

none of Bazarnik, Takahashi, or Suyehira disclose or suggest determining that a part is a non-conforming part when it is determined the ID number is identical to an ID number *already discarded* in a database.

Accordingly, even the combined teachings of Gonyea, Deguchi, Bazarnik, Takahashi, and Suyehira fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 1, 16, or 31. It is submitted Claims 1, 16, and 31, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 recites a parts management system, Claim 27 recites a parts management method, and new Claim 33 recites a parts management program. Amended Claims 12 and 27 and new Claim 33 each recite, *inter alia*:

...the IC includes a high-frequency section for non-contact transmission/reception of data, and a frequency band different from a frequency band used for RF application in plasma processing is selected as the transmitting frequency band for the IC.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the claimed IC that uses a frequency band *different from* a frequency band used for RF application in plasma processing. Indeed, none of the cited references discuss attaching an IC to a part and selecting a frequency band, much less selecting a frequency band *different from* a frequency band used for RF application in plasma processing.

Accordingly, even the combined teachings of Gonyea, Deguchi, Bazarnik, Takahashi, and Suyehira fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 12, 27, and 33. It is submitted Claims 12, 27, and 33, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

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For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-17, 19-23, and 25-34 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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